Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 01358 181438Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-08
COME-00 TRSE-00 FRB-01 OMB-01 L-03 AGRE-00 DHA-02
HEW-06 OES-06 /072 W
----------181913Z 123171 /42
R 181215Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4675

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 1358

EO 11652 N/A
TAGS: EAID, SWEL, HA
SUBJECT: REUTERS REPORT ON STARVATION IN HAITI

REF: STATE 83272

1. WE ARE UNABLE TO CONFIRM THE DETAILS OF THE REUTERS REPORT ABOUT STARVATION IN HAITI. WE HAVE HAD MANY SIMILAR REPORTS, RANGING FROM ONE REPORT OF THREE DEATHS BY STARVATION ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE PLATEAU CENTRALE TO ANOTHER REPORT OF 590 MALNUTRITION-RELATED DEATHS IN THE JEAN RABEL-PORT DE PAIX AREA. ON THE BASIS OF OUR ONGOING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE VOLAGS AND HAITIAN SOURCES, WE CAN CONFIRM THAT THERE IS SOME STARVATION BUT NO RELIABLE REPORTS HAVE YET BEEN PUT TOGETHER ON THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE STARVING. EMBASSY AND AID OFFICERS WILL BE VISITING THE NORTHWEST EARLY THIS WEEK WITH GOH OFFICIALS AND HOPE TO GATHER BETTER INFORMATION THEN.

2. AS REPORTED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES, HAITI IS UNDERGOING A SERIOUS DROUGHT AND MOST OF THE COUNTRY, FROM PORT AU PRINCE ON NORTH, IS EXPERIENCING HARDSHIP TO A GREATER OR LESSER DEGREE. THE SOUTHERN PENINSULA HAS ISOLATED AREAS OF CROP FAILURE AND HARDSHIP.
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3. REUTERS CORRECTLY STATES THAT RAIN FOR THE PAST FIVE NIGHTS IN THE PORT AU PRINCE AREA WILL NOT AFFECT THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF HUNGER AND CROP FAILURE ELSEWHERE. IT WILL, OF COURSE, HELP FILL UP LOCAL RESERVOIRS, THEREBY EASING THE PLIGHT OF THE URBAN POOR WHO HAVE BEEN DESPERATELY SHORT OF WATER.

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4. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE THE RAPID APPROVAL OF THE RECENT AUGMENTATION OF OUR P.L. 480 TITLE I AND TITLE II PROGRAMS. THE TITLE I PROGRAM IS AIMED AT OVERALL FOOD SHORTAGES; THE TITLE II INCREASE IS SPECIFICALLY TARGETED AT THE TWO MOST DEPRIVED AREAS, LA GONAVE AND THE NORTHWEST. WE WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO ASSESS WHETHER ADDITIONAL INCREASES MIGHT BE NEEDED IN A FEW WEEKS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOOD SHORTAGE, MALNUTRITION, DEATHS, DROUGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Source: CORE
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 83272
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2775287
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REUTERS REPORT ON STARVATION IN HAITI
TAGS: EAID, SWEL, SOPN, HA, REUTERS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/566e3aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009